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Senator Stennis Agriculture Forestry Correspondence S33B009F0206L01

Hugh V. Wall

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FEB 19 1948

Jackson, Miss.,
February, 17/48

Senator John Stennis
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Stennis :-

I am writing this letter in the spirit of helpfulness. I am just trying to be helpful not only to you but to my state. We are at the cross roads.

We boasted that we elected a Governor and a Senator and we did not use the negro as an issue. Senator Eastland used the legislature to launch his Senatorial campaign. He touched of the spark that has brought an explosion.

I have been amazed at my friend Gov Wright. I wrote him a letter urging that he not be in Jackson the day the Democratic convention was held. I told him if he wanted to be Governor he had better stay out.

I got the opinion from Attorney General Greek Rice by getting a legislator to sign the letter I wrote. Mr. Rice advised this. I asked him last week what he thought of the new outbreak. He said you know Mississippians. They get together and a few fellows want the lime light. They do some hell raising speaking, every body gets all "het up" and in five or six weeks it all just sizzles out.

I was with Kenneth and Minor of the Piacyune last sunday. They are alarmed over the trend and are afraid that the Governor is going to be weakened. He is out on a limb and doing his own sawing. He is now lead by the group that steamed rolled over the common folks to which I belong.

The thing that stopped them then was the movement I got launched to get 50 signers on a petition in every county in Mississippi to put out opposition candidates for electors.

I worked behind the scenes and several of the fellows that wanted the headlines lined up with the leaders we were opposing.

This thing of going over the heads of the Governors of our state is just plain foolishness. I think their second convention will be a flop. What good will it do? They will have no authority to act from the people back home. Your position in this was so sound. Both newsmen thought as you are thinking submit what ever plan they have for a vote.

Here is the way the resolutions were handled. Gov Wright spearheading the attack on the President and the Democratic party read his resolutions did not even get a second. Folsom read his, defeated. I believe it was the Governor of Florida read a every sensible resolution. The Governor (Miss) kept silent.

Kenneth Toler had wired the resolution of Gov of Fla, called Gov. Wright and he then gave the resolutions to him that he had offered which were included in the story. He got some bad advice.

I am very fond of Gov Wright and I only wish that he had pursued a different course. He has been so sound in his judgment and had such an opportunity.

The Bilboites and the Anti-Bilboites for the time seem to have signed a treaty of peace.

They failed to tell us who the gentleman from Longview, Texas and the speaker from Texas represented. And then there was stray fellow up in the gallery from Missouri who stood and was urged to get on the stage and no doubt be in the picture that hinted other Southern states are represented in the secession movement.

I note that the Governor has been invited to speak in Arkansas to an organization of people who are the champions of free enterprise. I note in a Texas magazine that represents the group that have been for a long time trying to bring about a revolt that they are very happy that something is getting started. However he said the Democratic party has more respect for a negro than the fellow that jumped the Texas Democratic party.

You have a great opportunity to help us get back on the road to a Christian and common sense way of settling the negro question. The brains that are directing the revolt are using the opportunity afforded by Mr. Truman to destroy the liberal movement in the State and I do not refer to the one lead by Mr. Wallace.

I took breakfast this morning with your friend Senator Warren. I like him very much.

Sincerely yours,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

C. WAYLAND BROOKS, ILL., CHAIRMAN
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ALBERT L. SEIDEL, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

February 26, 1948

Confidential

Mr. [REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I deeply appreciate your letter of February 17th.
It contains, I think, sound thought and timely advice.

Right now, I am working my hardest to block the
bills referred to in the President's message. It is going
to be a hard and close fight according to present indications.
Your words are encouraging indeed, especially so at this time
with the tremendous load of legislation before us.

Your advice and counsel are always welcome, and I hope
that you will continue to favor me with suggestions.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

JCS:MVM